Stoppage of Complimentary Passes in AI and IA

150. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that government have decided to do away with the complimentary passes in Air India and Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, what will be the likely savings expected to be made by this decision?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Effective mid October 2001 Air India has stopped issuing complimentary passes. In Indian Airlines also complimentary passes have been stopped. This is, however, not applicable to the normal sales promotion schemes etc. of Air India and Indian Airlines.

Hijacking of Alliance Aircraft

151. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken an enquiry into the recent incident of so called hijacking of an Alliance Aircraft;

(b) if so, what are the findings thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken to ensure that such false alarms do not take place in the future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) A high level Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Special Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs to examine in totality the situation arising out of the chain of events triggered by an anonymous telephone call regarding the imminent hijacking of flight No. CD- 7444 operating on Mumbai-Delhi sector on 3.10.2001. The Committee has since submitted its report.

The Committee has *inter alia* recommended that the Contingency Plan, relevant manuals and guidelines dealing with the hijack situation should be suitably modified to eliminate communication mismatch between flight crew and ground personnel.